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OVA SCOTIANS

• A Message from the Liberal Leader

Please read this Liberal Platform carefully. Notice, particularly, the policies designed to put more of the cash and credit of this province into the hands of the middle and low-income groups—the farmers, fishermen, hourly workers, clerks, stenographers, small businesses and Nova Scotia industry.

The Liberal Party, under my leadership, will be true to those Liberal principles that made it the Party of the People. Big, subsidized industry has been very well treated. More must be done for ordinary family folks.

But enough of words. Let the Platform speak for itself. Read the Liberal program and you'll want to vote Liberal on October 8 and give us a chance to put these enlightened and modern ideas into practical action for the welfare of ALL the people.

Robert Hughes

• Medicare

The Liberal Party stands for the establishment, in co-operation with the Federal Government, of a government sponsored, pre-paid, medical care programme. Such a programme obviously cannot be fully implemented at once. However, a new Liberal Government will institute a plan immediately to give medical care to the needy. This will be done by a government contribution (in full in some cases) towards the cost of comprehensive medical coverage, for certain low-income groups, purchased from recognized organizations providing medical insurance.

This programme:

- (a) will be entirely voluntary and free from any government regimentation or interference with individual rights and responsibilities;
- (b) will preserve inviolate the doctor-patient relationship necessary to a high standard of medical care;
- (c) will employ the insurance principle as the means of equalizing the cost of medical services;
- (d) will maintain the responsibility of the individual in providing for his medical requirements, with the province assuming a responsibility to assist financially to the extent necessary to bring medical services within the reach of low-income groups without serious financial sacrifice.

• Industrial Development and Expansion

A new Liberal government will:

- (a) Make provision for the sum of \$10,000,000 to guarantee loans up to \$25,000 approved by the Industrial Loan Board and made through chartered banks for ANY commercial, farming, fishing, lumbering, mining or service enterprise carried on in Nova Scotia;
- (b) Establish an independent Export Agency for the purpose of stimulating the sale of Nova Scotia products abroad. The Agency will have a permanent staff and a

board of directors drawn from business, labour and professional leaders. While the Agency will concentrate initially on expanding trade with the West Indies, the whole area of export trade will be within its terms of reference;

(c) Endeavour to locate industries coming to Nova Scotia for the first time in areas of low income and high unemployment so that all parts of the Province may share in its industrial development;

(d) Improve as well as continue the activities of Industrial Estates Limited, and render to the people of Nova Scotia an accounting of the expenditure of public funds used for this purpose.

• Gasoline and Other Petroleum Products

A new Liberal government will conduct, immediately, a full and complete inquiry into the high prices of gasoline and other petroleum products in Nova Scotia as compared with Toronto, Montreal and other places.

• Assistance For Payment of Drugs

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHERE NECESSARY FOR THE PAYMENT OF DRUGS NECESSARY FOR THE TREATMENT OF PROLONGED ILLNESSES

A new Liberal government will assist, where necessary, in the payment of bills for drugs where the use of such drugs is required in prolonged illnesses and where the cost of such drugs will cause financial hardship. This plan does not propose to provide free drugs for all citizens, but does provide that no one in Nova Scotia need suffer because of inability to pay drug costs for prolonged periods.

• Transportation

HIGHWAYS—A new Liberal Government will undertake:

- (a) Immediate completion of the Trans-Canada highway, 90% of the cost of which will be paid by the Liberal government at Ottawa;
- (b) A vigorous rural highway programme to provide residents of these areas with modern roads;
- (c) To build a four-lane highway from Yarmouth to Sydney, Halifax to Truro and from there to the New Brunswick border;
- (d) An increased share of the cost of maintenance of those city and town streets which are used as part of the provincial highway system;
- (e) An increased snow removal and ice control programme to open up roads promptly for rural residents;
- (f) A programme to provide to residents of rural areas a snow removal service to open up driveways.
- (g) A programme to provide where possible a more practical use of the highways during the special weight restriction period in the Spring.

WATERWAYS—A new Liberal government will make vigorous representations to Ottawa immediately for additional ferry boat facilities to supplement the service in those places now inadequately served by the present M. V. Bluenose.

A new Liberal government will subsidize or provide transportation facilities across the Minas Basin area, linking Cumberland County with the Annapolis Valley.

• Mental Health

A new Liberal government will:

- (a) Provide free drugs to mental patients to continue treatment for their mental illness following discharge from hospital;
- (b) Provide proper facilities for the diagnosis, treatment, and where necessary, the care and training of mentally retarded children.

• Welfare Assistance

PENSIONS and SOCIAL WELFARE

A new Liberal government will upgrade the Social Welfare programme by:

- (a) Participating with the Federal government in payment of increases in Old Age Assistance, Disability Allowances, Blind Pensions and Pensions for Widows and Unmarried Women at 60;
- (b) Raising the maximum of monthly Mothers' Allowances from \$90 to \$105;
- (c) Raising the level of permissible earnings of recipients of Mothers' Allowances.

SENIOR CITIZENS HOMES

Voluntary service organizations in the Province of Nova Scotia have interested themselves in the provision of homes for elderly persons. A new Liberal government will offer every possible assistance to such public-spirited bodies, and will make available to them such aids as:

- (a) Architectural Planning;
- (b) Films and books dealing constructively with problems of the aged;
- (c) Financial assistance and counselling.

• Fishing

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES—A new Liberal government will create a Ministry of Fisheries to promote and develop the fishing industry, and give it the same advantages by having its own Minister, Deputy Minister and Staff, as is the case with Agriculture and Lands and Forests. This plank was in the Liberal Platform in 1960, and while the Conservatives have finally adopted it, it seems obvious that they have done so reluctantly and are therefore unlikely to give such a Department the emphasis it deserves. When the 12-mile zone has been established according to the federal Liberal plan, the fishing industry will be of increasing importance to this Province, and a Ministry, zealously devoted to its well-being, is essential.

• Agriculture

A new Liberal government will develop and strengthen agriculture by:

- (a) Making long-term, low-interest-rate loans to farmers, for the purpose of increasing farm production to meet our domestic market requirements and export opportunities. At the present time, for example, we are producing only $\frac{1}{3}$ of our domestic meat product requirements;
- (b) An upward revision of the present limestone assistance policy;
- (c) A subsidy on fertilizer.

• Lands and Forests

The Liberal Party believes in encouraging the proper management of the forest resources in this Province, as well as obtaining the maximum value for such resources for the people of this Province. Therefore a new Liberal government will:

- (a) Encourage modern forest management plans and practices throughout the Province;
- (b) Investigate the possibility of further utilization of our forest resources by additional processing of pulp, paper and wallboard products within the province in co-operation with the Federal Liberal Government at Ottawa;
- (c) Investigate the problem of the small woodlot owners in marketing their various wood products.

• Education

A new Liberal government will:

- (a) Initiate an educational programme embracing technical, trade and commercial training, which will provide persons who are forced to discontinue their academic training before reaching High School, with the opportunity to equip themselves for employment which will make the best use of their talents;
- (b) Undertake a study to determine whether the curriculum offered in our public school system is adequate to meet present day conditions;
- (c) Abolish the \$5.00 rental fee for textbooks for High School students.

• A Ministry of Youth

A new Liberal government will establish a Ministry of Youth. It will co-ordinate and extend the work of all agencies serving the young people of this Province. This Ministry will deal with physical fitness, vocational training and guidance and employment opportunities.

• Municipal Assistance

A new Liberal government will convene immediately a Provincial-Municipal Conference to examine the area of joint responsibilities with a view to holding reducing the level of real property tax by relieving municipalities of some of their present financial burden for education, mental health and administration of

• Housing

A new Liberal government will implement a program to facilitate the building of low-cost dwellings by earners of modest means. This will be done by extending the provisions of the Nova Scotia Housing Commission Act to such purchasers.

The present procedure under the Nova Scotia Housing Commission will be simplified to make its benefits readily available to applicants.

• Workmen's Compensation

A new Liberal government will review the rate of compensation payable under Workmen's Compensation awards made prior to the MacKinnon Report, for the purpose of bringing such compensation more into line with the present high cost of living.

• Minimum Wage For Men

A new Liberal government will bring in a Minimum Wage Act for Men after consultation with representatives of management, labour and other interested groups throughout the Province.

• Miners' Pensions

A new Liberal government will extend the present pensions to miners 60 years and over to all areas where mine closures have caused high unemployment.

• Electoral Reform

A new Liberal government will reduce the voting age in Provincial Elections from 21 years to 18 years.

• Civil Service

A new Liberal government will make an upward revision of the salary scale for all provincial civil servants under the level of directors, to bring them more into line with the salary scales paid for similar positions in other provinces. It is of prime importance to the efficient operation of the civil service that salary rates, in lower classifications be adjusted upward, immediately.

• Relations With Federal Government

A new Liberal government in Nova Scotia would, of course, be in an ideal position to negotiate favourable terms with the Liberal government in Ottawa. The Liberal government pledges itself to establish a new high level of responsibility in the relationship which exists between provincial and federal governments, and will never prejudice such relations in order to gain political advantage.